



State Senator Martha G. Scott

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Senator Scott Continues Fighting for Insurance Reform

Every day during Senate Session I continue my fight for insurance reform. At the start of the 2009-2010 legislative session in January 2009, I immediately introduced a bill prohibiting the use of “redlining” – setting insurance rates based on location. Unfortunately, in October of 2009, the Senate discharged the bill from committee and voted it down. You can read the full debate on the bill online at [www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(1mzvjqrh3ujb5jz0hf0taf32\)\)/documents/2009-2010/Journal/Senate/htm/2009-SJ-10-28-091.htm](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(1mzvjqrh3ujb5jz0hf0taf32))/documents/2009-2010/Journal/Senate/htm/2009-SJ-10-28-091.htm). You can also view video highlights of the debate at my website, www.senate.michigan.gov/scott, under Media Room.

If we are going to require that every driver carry auto insurance, then we need to make sure that they are paying fair rates. Insurance rates should be based on the car a person drives, a person’s driving record, and the distance a person regularly drives. If we adopted these common-sense changes to our auto insurance laws, then we would no longer pay the 12th highest rates in the

country, and metro/urban area citizens would no longer pay the highest rates in the country.

The insurance industry argues that rates are high because of the high rate of accidents or auto thefts in some areas. But the Michigan Auto Theft Prevention Authority reported in February that auto thefts in Detroit fell 14.2 percent from 2006 to 2007, and 42 percent statewide since 1986. Traffic accidents in Detroit have gone down nearly 40 percent since 1997, and this year Detroit was named the 10th safest city to drive in relating to traffic accidents. Yet insurance rates have not gone down.

I will continue to advocate for insurance reform in Michigan until it becomes a reality.

For more information about finding better insurance rates, visit www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-10555---,00.html or visit the Insurance Advocate at www.michigan.gov/lowerratesnow for more information on insurance reform.

Help Is Available for Families in Need

There are many groups and programs that can assist families in need. Below is a list of organizations and their contact numbers. If you or someone you know is in need, please ask for help.

Where to go for help with foreclosure:

- Save The Dream: 1-866-946-7432
- Wayne County Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program: 1-877-693-6199
- Wayne County Taxpayer Assistance Department: 313-224-5990
- Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency Foreclosure Intervention Assistance: 313-843-2550

Where to go for help with your energy bill:

- DTE Energy Customer Care: 1-800-477-4747
- DHS Energy Hotline: 1-800-292-5650

Where to go for help with your job search

- www.michiganworks.org
- www.michigan.gov/jobs
- No Worker Left Behind retraining program: www.michigan.gov/nwlb

Call United Way 2-1-1

- Resources for rent/utility assistance, food, legal assistance, shelter, support groups, and more.
- 2-1-1 is a free, easy-to-remember telephone number and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Information about a wide range of community services – including health care, job training, child care, mortgage foreclosure assistance, food assistance and more.

If it's a life-threatening emergency, always call 9-1-1.



**Capitol
NEWS**

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LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION FOR MY CONSTITUENTS IN THE 2ND DISTRICT

May 2010

How To Reach Me

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Dear Friends:

Michigan is again facing a challenging year. My colleagues and I in Lansing continue working to keep jobs in our community while attracting new businesses and jobs. Jobs need well-educated and trained workers, and inside this newsletter you will read about a recent briefing I co-hosted about retraining our workers for new jobs.

Inside you will also read about my efforts to protect our children from teen dating violence, and to expand insurance coverage to important health care tests. Because so many working and unemployed people are struggling to make ends meet and care for their families, I have also included a list of agencies and their contact numbers that can offer assistance with a family's daily needs.

I am always eager to hear your thoughts on how we can improve Michigan and make it better, safer, and healthier for all of us. I encourage you to join me at one of my weekly coffee hours listed below – or contact me toll-free from the 313 area code at 800-726-8878. You may also reach me by using one of the methods listed on the left side of this page.

Sincerely yours,

Martha G. Scott
State Senator • District 2

2010 Coffee Hour Schedule

Every Monday, except on holidays, I hold a coffee hour in one of the communities in my district. These coffee hours give district residents an opportunity to meet with me and discuss state legislation and community issues. Coffee hours are held from **8:30 to 9:30 a.m.** and no appointment is needed.

First Monday of every month
McDonald's
14271 Gratiot Avenue
Detroit

Second Monday of every month
Maine Street Restaurant
11650 Joseph Campau Street
Hamtramck

Third Monday of every month
Caribou Coffee Company
19419 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe Woods

Fourth Monday of every month
McDonald's
14124 Woodward Avenue
Highland Park



Senator Scott Appointed to the Children’s Caucus

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Prusi has appointed me to be the new Democratic member of the Children’s Caucus. This caucus works to develop public policy to help improve the lives of Michigan’s young people. The Children’s Caucus is comprised of members of the Michigan Legislature who are interested in and dedicated to furthering early childhood education, health and care. They meet regularly to address issues relative to early childhood development in Michigan, and work to engage their legislative colleagues in instituting policies to enhance it.



Sen. Scott speaks at the Children’s Trust Fund rally on March 23rd announcing that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Michigan. Sen. Scott is a member of the CTF Annual Gala Advisory Board.

Senator Scott Continues to Fight Teen Violence

The numbers don’t lie – one in two teens report that they have been personally victimized by controlling behaviors from a boyfriend or girlfriend. Many teens are reluctant to speak out due to fear and stigma. But we cannot let our young people live in fear, and that is why I continue to support the “It’s Time to Talk Day” program, sponsored by Liz Claiborne Inc. This program encourages teens to speak out, and also designates one day a year as the “It’s Time to Talk Day” to publicize this message.

I am also working with the National Foundation for Women Legislators and MADE (Moms and Dads for Education) to ensure that all young people are educated about the devastating consequences of teen dating violence and abuse.

MADE is a nationwide coalition of parents, teachers, and concerned citizens advocating that middle and high schools teach curricula on teen dating violence and abuse. This group is encouraging all school districts in Michigan to teach the nationally recognized Love Is Not Abuse curriculum. Because digital dating abuse is increasingly a problem for youth – nearly one in three teens say their partners have used texting to control and harass them – the Love Is Not Abuse curriculum has been revised to include a section on digital abuse. Dating violence is at epidemic proportions, resulting in thousands of preventable deaths. We all have a responsibility to do our part to end this vicious cycle. More information is available online at www.loveisnotabuse.com.

Senator Scott Honored for Health Disparity Advocacy

The Michigan Minority Health Coalition honored me in December with its Anna McKeever Hilliard Visionary Award during its Patient Advocacy Leadership Summit. The award recognized my efforts in the Legislature to overcome health disparities. Access to quality health care regardless of gender, age, race or ethnicity is a fundamental need. Yet we know that not

everyone receives the same level of care. I will continue my efforts to ensure that no one goes without the care they need. The Anna McKeever Hilliard Visionary Award honors individuals who have advanced the quality of life for Michigan’s current and future minority populations through their work to eliminate health disparities. Ms. Hilliard was born enslaved in

the 1850s, was freed at the age of 12, and later married and raised a family. She firmly believed that there would be a better life for the future generations of her family, so she instituted a tradition of daily prayer for the current generation of her family and the generations to come. Her family continued the practice after Ms. Hilliard’s death in 1929, and continues it to this day more than

100 years after Ms. Hilliard began her daily prayer. The Michigan Minority Health Coalition is a statewide consortium which was founded in 2006 to develop strategies and create partnerships that will improve the health status of Michigan’s ethnic and racial minority populations. More information is available at www.michiganmhc.com.

Senator Scott Sponsors Bills Requiring Insurance Coverage for HPV Testing

In March, I introduced legislation which would require health insurance providers to cover HPV testing, which can identify a virus that can lead to cervical cancer. There is an HPV vaccine that is FDA-approved for girls and young women ages 9-26 and it has been shown to be 100 percent effective at preventing infection of the two types of HPV that cause approximately 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases in women who were not previously infected. However,

HPV testing is still the best way to identify high-risk types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer.

This issue is so important to us women – as daughters, as mothers, as grandmothers, as sisters, as aunts, as co-workers, as neighbors and as friends. Most insurance companies already cover Pap tests for early signs of cervical cancer, but the more advanced HPV test could save even more lives. This coverage will be an important step in our



campaign to eliminate the threat of cervical cancer and relegate it to that archaic list of diseases that we have already conquered and now prevent.

Senate Bills 1062-1063 have been referred to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Regulatory Reform.

Adult Education Essential to Job Growth

Adult education programs have changed a great deal in recent years. We used to think of adult education as people going back to finish high school and obtain their GED. But in this changing job market, adult education now must work in concert with job training programs like No Worker Left Behind.

Because so many workers are finding that they need more education and training to find and keep jobs, adult education needs our support. As we face higher budget deficits that we are constitutionally required to solve, funding for these programs is harder to find. But in a rapidly growing economy, it is impossible to separate the need for new jobs from the need for an increase in adult education. This was the conclusion we reached at an adult education briefing held at the State Capitol on February 25.

This briefing, which I co-hosted along with Representative Kim Meltzer, was arranged by Women in Government, a national non-profit, non-partisan organization. Michigan was chosen for this briefing because we have faced serious challenges in the job market over the last several years.

However, some industry sectors have continued to gain jobs during the recession, primarily private educational services, health care and social assistance.

Jobs increasingly demand high levels of technical skills and training, and the best way to address this change is through adult education. Michigan's No Worker Left Behind (www.michigan.gov/nwlb) program, created in 2007 to retrain state residents for careers in high-demand fields, offers two years of free training or community college for enrollees working toward a certificate in a high-demand job field. Since it began, NWLB has enrolled more than 108,000 people. Of the workers that have found a job since they began their training, 85 percent got their position because of NWLB training.

Besides NWLB, Michigan currently has more than 250 adult education programs located throughout the state and serving more than 80,000 people. Many of these programs are through Michigan Works!, which offers adult basic education, general education development tests, high school completion, English as a Second Language, family literacy programs, and programs for the homeless.

